

Meeting Date: November 18, 2007

Agenda Item No. 21

Agenda Item: Land Acquisitions

Approved by: BB

Prepared by: Katherine Cousins, Steve Elam, and Gregg Servheen

Background:

R1-Pend Oreille WMA lot (Wilson) – The 0.74-acre lot is located adjacent to the Lower Pack River Habitat Segment, part of the Pend Oreille Combined Lands Wildlife Management Area, and is being purchased for \$45,000 under the Albeni Falls wildlife mitigation program. Acquisition of the subject property will allow the Department to petition the County assessor's office to abandon and relocate the platted road and utility accesses through the middle of the Habitat Segment. This will contribute to the long-term plan of providing a safe movement corridor for wildlife moving along the Pack River as well as improved management of the WMA. Executive Session: March 2007.

R2-Redbird Access (Coleman) – Acquire 0.5 acres of pasture land (\$4,750) in the Nez Perce County adjacent to the newly acquired 2,862-acre Redbird parcel. Acquisition of this parcel would provide improved recreational and administrative access into the southeast segment of the Redbird property on Craig Mountain WMA. This access point will allow for development of a public parking area, improve sportman's access, and reduce conflicts with private landowners. Executive Session: March 2007.

R3 -Highland Valley Smith Property – Acquire 66.54 acre life estate for \$177,000 on property located about ½ mile from the Boise River WMA headquarters providing valley bottom and shrub-steppe mule deer winter range. The owner, Mr. Larry Smith, previously sold a portion of the property containing springs and significant wetlands to RMEF (transferred to BLM) that is now part of the WMA. Water from the springs is used to irrigate a few acres of pasture and there is a strip of riparian vegetation. Living trust would allow son to remain on property for life with some public access and land management operations specified in the Trust. Executive Session: July 2007.

R3 –Solterbeck Colwell – - In 1960 the Department purchased an access easement from Rosa Solterbeck. This easement was for access to the Payette River. Currently the access to the Payette River at Solterbeck is now permitted by the City of Payette on the north side. Colwell Ranches has acquired the property that the easement is now on. Colwell Ranches would like to exchange the easement for a 19 acre parcel on the Payette River upstream with unimproved boat ramp. Executive Session: January 2006

R5-Thompson - This 160-acre fee title acquisition for approximately \$160,000 lies just across the Union Pacific RR line from the 86 acres recently purchased from McCammons and borders our Georgetown WMA in Bear Lake County 4 miles northwest of Georgetown. The property would also come with a BLM lease of 28 acres that borders approximately 3/8 mi of the Bear River. This property is part of an important travel corridor for wildlife, particularly elk, traversing from the Bear River Range (Management Unit 75) and the Aspen Range (Management Unit 76). This area, including the Georgetown Summit WMA, is the highest elevation habitat (excluding the actual river corridor) connecting the two ranges. Lands to the east and west tend to be developed for agriculture and rather open in character. Executive Session: July 2007

R4 - Centennial Addition – Acquire fee title to 1,461 acres for \$2,045,000 at Centennial Marsh WMA as part of the Southern Idaho mitigation program funded by BPA. The properties are owned by 3 landowners, one of which desires to do a value for value exchange of his 280 acre property for 700 acres we purchase from another. The acquisition of these properties will enhance wildlife habitat, administration, and access on the Centennial Marsh WMA and provide connectivity between three existing parcels of IDFG owned lands and help reduce management challenges related to livestock operations on the subject properties. Acquisition would also allow improvement of the water delivery system throughout the marsh when conditions require supplemental water pumping to maintain water levels during critical brood rearing periods. Executive Session: July 2007

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Land acquisition in accordance with Commission land acquisition policy.

Public Involvement Process:

County commissioners have been asked and provided their approval of these acquisitions prior to closings. The public will be informed and contacted for their input regarding management of the properties in concert with development of their respective management plans.

Staff Recommendation:

The Lands Committee recommends proceeding with the acquisitions.